

**TOP SECRET**

22 Oct

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**22 OCT 1959**

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director/Intelligence**

**SUBJECT: Recent Statements by Soviet Officials on Production and Reserves of Gold in the USSR**

1. This memorandum is in response to several questions asked by personnel in your office and others regarding recent statements by Soviet officials, particularly one by a member of Premier Khrushchev's cortege, on the production and reserves of gold in the USSR.

2. Although no official figures on domestic production, sales to the Free World, domestic consumption, or reserves of gold have been released by the USSR since 1927, Soviet officials occasionally refer to the gold position of the USSR. Their references, no matter how casual, are publicized because of the great significance of gold. Without exception their statements have alluded to high levels of gold production and huge reserves.

3. Widely quoted during the past month were the remarks of two Soviet officials. On 22 September 1959 George P. Arkadev, the Soviet Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Security Council, said that output of gold in the USSR was "closer to 50 tons a month" than to 60. On 24 September 1959, a member of Khrushchev's party during the recent tour of the US claimed that the gold reserves of the USSR amounted to 8 billion dollars and that 650 million dollars are being added to the gold reserves annually. Converting these figures into ounces at the current market price yields an annual level of gold production of nearly 19 million ounces, about a million ounces higher than South Africa's output and 14 million ounces higher than Canada's, and a gold reserve of about 230 million ounces.

4. We believe that the levels of both production and reserves implied by these remarks are much too high. Our reasons are as follows:

a. Current Soviet behavior in matters of international trade is inconsistent with a large annual output of gold and large gold reserves. Not only have the Soviets attempted to minimize exports of gold by expanding exports of other goods, but they have requested deferred payment terms from the US and other countries in the Free World. During his trip to the US, Mr. Mikoyan made the following remarks: "We have no large reserve of dollars. If we had loans we would be able to make large orders.....If you [the US] cannot make credit available, then we must do without trade."

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**SUBJECT: Recent Statements by Soviet Officials on Production and Reserves of Gold in the USSR**

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b. [REDACTED]  
information indicates that both production and reserves of gold in the USSR are much less than implied by the recent Soviet statements. We estimate from intelligence information that the output of gold in the USSR from both primary and secondary sources in 1958 was 3,600,000 ounces, worth 126 million dollars, and that the gold reserve of the USSR is not more than 120 million ounces, worth at a maximum 4 billion dollars.

5. Our belief that the Soviet statements on gold in the USSR are erroneous is supported by the most recent definition of State Secrets as decreed by the Council of Ministers. On 28 April 1956 the Council declared that "compiled data on productive capacity, plans for production of nonferrous, precious and rare metals and reports on their fulfillment expressed in absolute figures of production in the USSR as a whole, the Ministry of Nonferrous Metal Industry of the USSR, the Ministry of Nonferrous Metal Industry of the Kazakh SSR and their Main Directorates" are considered State Secrets. The Council also decreed that divulgence of such information "insofar as these activities cannot be classified as high treason or espionage, is punishable by imprisonment in a corrective labor camp.....for periods ranging from 4 to 12 years." Even Mr. Mikoyan, when questioned repeatedly on the subject of gold during his visit to the US, replied that such information was a State Secret and refused to discuss the matter further. We conclude, therefore, that Soviet statements alluding to, or implying the release of, compiled data on production and reserves of gold in the USSR are unreliable and cannot be used as a basis for intelligence estimates.

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[REDACTED]  
OTTO E. GIBBE  
Assistant Director  
Research and Reports

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RR/M/NF [REDACTED] mrh/2031 (21 October 1959)

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**TOP SECRET DAUNT**

SC #106784/59

21 OCT 1959

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Office of Naval Intelligence  
**ATTENTION:** Lt. (jg.) Earl C. Sigg  
**SUBJECT:** Greek Vessels Chartered by Sino-Soviet Bloc Countries  
in 1958, and in 1959 through 19 September  
**REFERENCE:** Request of 1 October 1959 for Intelligence Information

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In reply to your request of 1 October 1959 to [REDACTED]  
of S/TR, ORR has prepared in tabular form the attached lists of Greek  
vessels chartered by the Sino-Soviet Bloc in 1958 and in 1959 through  
19 September. It is understood that this material will serve to  
support ONI in its preparation of the NIS on Greece.

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*for* **OTTO E. GUNNE**  
**Assistant Director**  
**Research and Reports**

**Enclosure:**  
**List of Greek Vessels Chartered by**  
**Sino-Soviet Bloc Countries**

**Distribution:**  
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ORR/S/TR: [REDACTED] :mdh/4657 (19 October 1959)

**TOP SECRET DAUNT**

## TOP SECRET DAUNT

### Greek Vessels Chartered by Sino-Soviet Bloc Countries in 1958 and in 1959 through 19 September

1. In 1958, according to available information, 87 Greek vessels of a total of 406,191 gross register tons were chartered by Sino-Soviet Bloc countries. In 1959 through 19 September, 54 Greek vessels of a total of 463,795 gross register tons were so chartered. The increase in tonnage occurring simultaneously with a decrease in number of vessels chartered is accounted for by the releasing of smaller vessels by Czechoslovakia and Rumania, and the chartering of larger vessels, particular tankers, by the USSR.

2. It will be noticed that in several instances the same vessel was chartered by more than one country during the same year. In such cases, chartering by each country is counted separately in arriving at the total. Charters of the same vessel by the same country occurring more than once within the year, on the other hand, are treated as only one charter.

3. In cases of vessel charters commencing in one year and extending into the next, the charters are counted only in the year in which they commenced. Thus 1957 charters which carried over into 1958 do not appear in the tabulation for 1958.

4. A point of interest is that Rumania, which chartered 23 Greek vessels in 1958, has so far chartered none in 1959.

5. Positive information is not available as to the type of charter, i.e., voyage or time, but it is believed that the majority of the Greek vessels listed in the attached enclosure were chartered on a voyage basis. Of the Greek vessels chartered to China in 1958, however, 14 were chartered on a time basis.

TOP SECRET DAUNT

Greek Vessels Chartered by Sino-Soviet Bloc Countries  
1958

<u>Name of Ship</u>	<u>GRT</u>	<u>Type of Ship</u>
	<u>Bulgaria</u>	
Aghios Nicolaos	1,887	Cargo
Anglia	1,920	"
Taxiarchis	877	"
Total No. of Vessels: 3	<u>4,684</u>	

	<u>China</u>	
Aegean Island	8,184	Cargo
Argo Chios	10,391	"
Argo Delos	10,392	"
Argo Elias	10,397	"
Argo Ollandia	10,376	"
Atlas	9,724	"
Ayia Markella	8,451	"
Capetan Cardamilitis	6,538	"
Costis	8,474	"
Despoina	5,006	"
Kalliopi Pateras	9,092	"
Kyvernitis	6,110	"
Manes	8,526	"
Master Elias Kulukundis	5,500	"
Master Stelios	8,906	"
Mimina	9,200	"
Nicolaos Pateras	7,216	"
Nicolaos S. Embiricos	6,279	"
Oinoussios	9,218	"
Orpheus	9,942	"
Othon	9,367	"
Pleiades	9,603	"
Pontoporos	7,213	"
Stamos	8,789	"
Total No. of Vessels: 24	<u>202,394</u>	

Hungary

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TOP SECRET DRAFT

**Greek Vessels Chartered by Sino-Soviet Bloc Countries  
1958  
(Continued)**

<u>Name of Ship</u>	<u>GRT</u>	<u>Type of Ship</u>
<u>Czechoslovakia</u>		
Aghios Nicolaos	1,887	Cargo
Aghios Spyridon	486	"
Alexandros T.	1,112	"
Aspa	653	"
Avlis	3,275	"
Avra	928	"
Coralia III	1,595	"
Costis	8,474	"
Danae	1,634	"
Elefsis	1,549	"
Evangelia II	1,716	"
Georgios L.	967	"
Hdio S.	2,032	"
Iaconia	964	"
Marigoula	481	"
Nicolaos Pateras	7,216	"
Othon	9,367	"
Saronikos	2,472	"
Sevasti K.	1,660	"
Spetsai Navigator	4,778	"
Total No. of Vessels: <u>20</u>	<u>53,306</u>	

East Germany

0

<u>Name of Ship</u>	<u>GRT</u>	<u>Type of Ship</u>
<u>Poland</u>		
Argo Delos	10,392	Cargo
Kyvernitis	6,110	"
Leonidas Michalos	7,176	"
Megalochari	2,081	"
Nestos	7,261	"
Nicolaos Pateras	7,216	"
Oinussios	9,218	"
Panaghiotis	10,135	"
Total No. of Vessels: <u>8</u>	<u>59,589</u>	

TOP SECRET DRAFT

**TOP SECRET DAUNT**

**Greek Vessels Chartered by Sino-Soviet Bloc Countries  
1958 (Continued)**

<u>Name of Ship</u>	<u>GRT</u>	<u>Type of Ship</u>
<u>Rumania</u>		
Anghyra	1,892	Cargo
Anglia	1,920	"
Annamina	554	"
Aspa	653	"
Aspasia	478	"
Astimina	1,008	"
Avra	988	"
Berolinon	1,892	"
Elimina	1,184	"
Frangis	755	"
Georgios L.	967	"
Germania	2,016	"
Grigorousa	593	"
Iaconia	964	"
Matroula	984	"
Marigoula	481	"
Nefeli	1,331	"
Patrai	2,754	"
Prasonisia	436	"
Rodopi	1,923	"
Savasti K.	1,660	"
Taxiarchis	877	"
Vorios Hellas	1,923	"
<b>Total No. of Vessels:</b> <u>23</u>	<u>28,233</u>	

<u>Name of Ship</u>	<u>GRT</u>	<u>Type of Ship</u>
<u>USSR</u>		
Angelos Iusia	11,630	Tanker
Argo Chios	10,391	Cargo
Libya	1,556	"
Margarita	1,554	"
Marietta Nomikos	11,577	Tanker
Megalochari	2,081	Cargo
Mount Kyllene	3,703	"
Myrtidiotissa	9,345	"
Spyros	5,648	Tanker
<b>Total No. of Vessels:</b> <u>9</u>	<u>57,485</u>	

**Total No. of Chartered  
Vessels:** 87 406,191

**TOP SECRET DAUNT**

**TOP SECRET DAWN**

**Greek Vessels Chartered by Sino Soviet Bloc Countries  
through 19 September 1959**

<u>Name of Ship</u>	<u>GRT</u>	<u>Type of Ship</u>
<u>Bulgaria</u>		
Kassos	5,215	Cargo
<u>China</u>		
Aegean Dolphin	8,835	Cargo
Aghia Marina	6,498	"
Atlas	9,724	"
Costis	8,474	"
George M. Embiricos	5,728	"
Kassos	5,215	"
Rhios Belle	8,453	"
Kyrekatingo	9,086	"
* Kyvernitis	9,000	"
Marpessa	9,125	"
Master Daskalov	9,162	"
** Master Elias	5,500	"
Master George	8,425	"
Mortidiotiasa	9,345	"
N. Georgios	13,152	Tanker
Nicolaos Pateras	7,216	Cargo
Orpheus	9,942	"
Panagiotis	10,135	"
Phaevos	9,949	"
Polaris	9,603	"
Poli	9,188	"
Pentoperos	7,213	"
Stamatios G. Embiricos	8,878	"

Total No. of Vessels: 23 197,346 GRT

Czechoslovakia

Kalliopi Pateras	9,092	Cargo
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\* Built 1959 (Differs from vessel of same name shown in 1958.)

\*\* Formerly Master Elias Kalakundis

**TOP SECRET DAWN**

**TOP SECRET DAUNT**

**Greek Vessels Chartered by Sino Soviet Bloc Countries  
through 19 September 1959**

**(Continued)**

<u>Name of Ship</u>	<u>GRT</u>	<u>Type of Ship</u>
<u><b>East Germany</b></u>		
Aghia Marina	6,498	Cargo
Marietta Nomikon	11,577	Tanker
Total No. of Vessels: 2	<u>18,075</u>	

**Hungary**

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**Poland**

Aghia Marina	6,498	Cargo
Argo Elias	10,397	"
Espericos	7,050	"
Ernia	9,585	"
Lucy	7,568	"
Cincoussios	9,213	"
Pacific Conqueror	10,314	"
Panaghiotis	10,135	"
Poli	9,188	"
Polyxeni	7,159	"

Total No. of Vessels: 10 87,120 GRT

**Romania**

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**TOP SECRET DAUNT**

# TOP SECRET DAUNT

## Greek Vessels Chartered by Sino-Soviet Bloc Countries through 19 September 1959 (Continued)

<u>Name of Ship</u>	<u>GRT</u>	<u>Type of Ship</u>
	<u>USSR</u>	
Aglaia Nikolaos	7,231	Cargo
Alexandros	9,723	"
Athina	2,862	"
Ayia Markella	8,431	"
Belgion	2,025	"
Chios	15,749	Tanker
Evangelia II	1,716	Cargo
Evangelos	3,976	Tanker
Ioannia Inglessia	7,035	Cargo
Isay	7,478	"
Marietta Noulson	11,577	Tanker
Mine Chonaris	9,960	Cargo
N. Georgios	13,132	Tanker
Parnassos	9,960	"
Savina	21,149	"
Spyros	5,648	"
Stavros	8,789	Cargo

Total No. of Vessels: 17 146,441

Total No. of Chartered  
Vessels: 54 463,795 GRT

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